

A. A. Phelps.

Aug. 17. 1837.

Friend Whittier

Boston Aug 17. 1837



I have just seen your remarks to H. B. Stanton in relation to the recent controversy here - also the squint that way in the Emancipator. Now so far as Stanton shows that letter & so far as the remarks in the Emancipator are understood they will be regarded as a censure on the course of Garrison & myself in our reply. Now what I have to ask is this 1. That you will not pass judgment on a case of which you know nothing; & 2d that you will not condemn us for getting out of a scrape into which you plunged us, in the best way we can. You sent us the Miss Grimké's - You saddled the Liberator upon the State Society. You sent us Henry C. Wright, with his no family & no civil government notions. In a word you have yoked the abolition question here with these extraneous questions, & it is these & what has grown out of them that have produced the explosion & threatened us with a secession & a new & separate organization, nay even led to incipient steps for its formation. And now forsooth, when we set ourselves to meeting the emergency in such manner as we think the circumstances of the

Dear Bro. Phelps, "blowing up" letter. The one? - I have looked in vain for any other on the subject though I do have a faint idea of one recd. after leaving New York. J. L. C.

case require, you set down the controversy as foolish wicked &c, throw out your hints condemnatory in the Emancipator, & are very glad your agent don't meddle with the matter! Really! If you & your agent will but undo your own misdeeds, you will not be troubled with any foolish or wicked controversies from me, or Garrison either. And as you have so far meddled with the matter as to condemn our mode of meeting the emergency, I have put that condemnation where it can be shown, on occasion, to others, & will just suggest some other things for you to do.

1. You (the Com^y) must quit the Society entirely of responsibility in respect to the Miss Grimkes, & that not in a blind & indefinite way, ^{which} ~~that~~ no one in ten will notice, or if they do, will understand.

2. You (the Com^y) must dismiss Henry C. Wright from his agency, unless he will consent to wave the promulgation of his ultra anti-government notions, ~~& to stop weaving them~~ either through the press, in public lectures, or by weaving them into his anti-slavery lectures as a part of his abolition.

3. You (John G. Whittier & Henry B. Stanton & co.) must induce Mr. Garrison, if you can, to wave the discussion

in the Liberator, of the Sabbath, ministerial, peace, women,
& government questions, & make the Liberator feel to the state
society, what the Emancipator is to the trunk, a purely
abolition paper; or you must undo the connexion
of it, which you yourselves formed, with the state
society, so that the society as such can be quit
of all responsibility in respect to it. In a word,
on all these points you must put matters back
where they were before you meddled with them;
& our troubles & yours will then cease. And until

you do it, it is not very generous to say
the least to make people trouble & then blame
them for getting out of it, the best way they can.

In respect to the above suggestions, let me say that I
have been to Andover & have seen quite a number
of our abolition clergymen beside, & they will be satisf-
ied if the above things are done, & will not unless they
are. And let me add, if at all, they must be done
soon, & done intelligibly. It wont do to say a thing &
then unsay it in the same breath.

And farther, let me add that as general agent of the
Mass. Society, I for one, (& I doubt not I speak the language
of all our friends here), am ready to render the most vigorous
& generous support to the American Society. We shall do all we
can to sustain you in the matter of funds & in other ways. We mean
in this to be second to none. But I wish you to remember that

A. de Meffers

A. C. Phelps
May 19 1837

A circular red ink postmark from Amesbury, Massachusetts. The text "AMESBURY" is curved along the top inner edge, "FEB 9" is in the center, and "Mass." is curved along the bottom inner edge. A handwritten "L." is visible below the circle.

Single
L. 2. 10.

Amos A. Phelps
Ed. Mass. Abolitionist
~~Amos A. Phelps, Esq.~~
Boston
~~Anti-Slavery Office~~
Mass.
New York

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we have a separate existence, & that in our jealousy for state rights & state sovereignty, we shall not take it with to have the reputation & influence of the parent society sustained by ~~it~~ ^{by censured private} ~~at the expense~~ ^{especially in cases in which you are necessarily ignorant of the facts.} or public, & implied or direct, on the State Society. And in the matter of funds, we shall not exactly like it, if your agents write, as one of them did recently in this style — "I will not speak of the comparative claims of the American & Mass. Societies. Both have claims. But this I do say, the American is doing all the work" — done in the state — for it was of this state he was speaking. We are not willing that either society should be built up ^{at any expense} at the expense of the others.

Dear Gov. Is this "blowing up" letter the one? — I have looked in vain for any other on the subject though I do have a faint idea of one received after leaving New York. — I'll